

Washington, DC – Today, U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Milwaukee) made the following statement on efforts that would nearly eliminate Wisconsin public employees' collective bargaining rights:

“Milwaukee and Wisconsin became what they are today because of our strong and skilled workforce. We know better than most that when our workers thrive, our economy thrives. The facts tell the story clearly – a strong community fighting for workers' rights goes hand in hand with strong middle class wages.

“The Governor is cavalierly trying to eliminate rights that Wisconsin workers have historically fought and died for. Public workers are not the enemy. They are skilled and trained workers. They are taxpayers, volunteers, neighbors and friends. They should be invited to the table and treated with respect – just like they have been historically by Republican and Democratic governors alike.

“Just like we do in Washington, leaders in Wisconsin need to make some tough budget decisions. But eliminating the rights of our public workers is an attack on Wisconsin's middle class. It's an attack on our state's rich history. And it's a crushing blow to our working families who are struggling to climb out of this recession.

“Wisconsin cannot recover and grow again without a strong middle class.”